

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ABIDJA 06368 061118Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 IO-14 ISO-00 L-03 FRB-01 OMB-01  
ITC-01 SP-02 ICA-20 AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-10  
LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-07 TRSE-00  
CEA-01 SS-15 /106 W

-----030233 062310Z /14

R 060841Z JUL 78

FM AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9507

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

UNCLAS ABIDJAN 6368

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, IV

SUBJ: PRODUCERS AND EXPORTERS OF TROPICAL WOOD

MEET IN ABIDJAN

1. DEVELOPING COUNTRY PRODUCERS AND EXPORTERS OF TROPICAL WOOD MET RECENTLY IN ABIDJAN TO CONSOLIDATE THEIR POSITION FOR THE UPCOMING FOURTH UNCTAD PREPARATORY SESSION ON TROPICAL WOOD.

2. IN THE OPENING SPEECH ON JUNE 28, IVORY COAST'S MINISTER OF WATER AND FORESTS, KOFFI ATTOBRA, SET THE TONE AND OUTLINED THE GOALS FOR THE CURRENT SESSION. HE POINTED OUT THAT HARDWOOD PRODUCERS AND EXPORTERS ARE VICTIMS OF THE UNCONTROLLABLE FLUCTUATIONS OF PRIMARY COMMODITY MARKETS. IN ADDITION, HE SAID THAT THE HARDWOOD MARKET IN PARTICULAR HAS BEEN DEPRESSED FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS IN RESPONSE TO WORLDWIDE RECESSION AND THE CONSEQUENT TURNDOWN IN THE CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY IN CONSUMER COUNTRIES.

3. TO AMELIORATE THE SITUATION, THE MINISTER SUGGESTED SEVERAL SHORT AND LONG-TERM MEASURES WHICH HE ENCOURAGED THE PRODUCERS TO PRESS FOR IN THE UPCOMING UNCTAD SESSION.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 ABIDJA 06368 061118Z

IN THE SHORT TERM, KOFFI ATTOBRA FAVORS A COMMODITY AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD SET MINIMUM AND MAXIMUM PRICES FOR HARWOODS AND WOULD ESTABLISH SOME SORT OF STABILIZATION PROGRAM TO KEEP THE MARKET FROM FLUCTUATING WILDLY. IN THE LONG TERM, THE MINISTER PROPOSED MORE FAR REACHING MEASURES WHICH WOULD ALLOW PRODUCING COUNTRIES TO BETTER MANAGE THEIR RESOURCES AND ALL THEM TO DEVELOP WOOD-

BASED INDUSTRIES SO THAT THEY COULD BENEFIT FROM RETURNS ON VALUE ADDED.

4. IN THE AREA OF BETTER MANAGEMENT, TWO CONCRETE PROPOSALS WERE PUT FORWARD. THE FIRST WOULD BE TO FORMULATE A UNIFORM AND GLOBAL CLASSIFICATION FOR ALL HARDWOODS, CATEGORIZING AND IDENTIFYING LESS KNOWN AND COMPLETELY UNKNOWN SPECIES. WITH SUCH A LISTING, LESS POPULAR SPECIES COULD BE IDENTIFIED AND POPULARIZED IN A WAY THAT HAS BEEN IMPOSSIBLE IN THE PAST, THUS SIMPLIFYING MANY COMMERCIAL EXCHANGES. THE SECOND SUGGESTION WOULD BE TO ESTABLISH AN AGREED UPON GLOBAL SCHEDULE OF FREIGHT RATES, EQUALIZING FAIRLY THE COSTS OF SHIPPING BETWEEN CONTINENTS. KOFFI ATTOBRA CONTENDS THAT CURRENT SCHEDULES DISCRIMINATE AGAINST AFRICA IN PARTICULAR.

5. IN TERMS OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, A PROGRAM TO INCREASE WOOD RELATED INDUSTRIES WOULD HAVE SEVERAL BENEFITS, ACCORDING TO THE MINSTER. FIRST, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, IT WOULD STIMULATE DEVELOPMENT IN NON-INDUSTIAL ECONOMIES. SECONDLY, IT WOULD REDUCE THE INEQUALITY IN THE TERMS OF TRADE BETWEEN DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES BY ADDING INCOME TO THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES' ACCOUNTS. FINALLY, PARTICIPATION IN COMMERCIALIZATION AND DISTRIBUTION OF WOOD PRODUCTS

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 ABIDJA 06368 061118Z

BY PRODUCER COUNTRIES WOULD PUT THEM IM A BETTER POSITION TO INFLUENCE THE MARKET AND DECREASE DESTABILIZING FACTORS.

6. IN CLOSING, THE MINSTER CALLED FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS TO AGREE ON A UNITED POSITION SO THAT THEY COULD INCREASE THEIR CHANCES OF HAVING THEIR PROPOSALS ADOPTED AT THE UPCOMING UNCTAD SESSION.

7. DIRECTOR OF CABINET OF MINISTRY FOR WATER AND FORESTS INFORMED EMBOFF THAT NO CONCRETE POSITIONS WERE AGREED UPON DURING THE MEETING. RALHER, AFTER DISCUSSING THE FOLLOWING TOPICS (MANY OF WHICH WERE RAISED BY MINISTER KOFFI ATTOBRA), A REQUEST WAS MADE TO THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT TO PREPARE PRODUCER POSITIONS: MEANS OF STABILIZING THE MARKET FOR TROPICAL HARDWOODS, INCLUDING MAXIMUM AND MINIMUM PRICES; STORAGE PROBLEMS; FINANCING OF REFORESTATION, INCLUDING POSSIBLE CONSUMER NATION PARTICIPATION; MEANS OF INCREASING PROCESSING OF TIMBER BEFORE IT IS EXPORTED; MARITIME PROBLEMS; TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER AND STUDIES OF NEW MARKETS FOR TROPICAL HARDWOODS INCLUDING THE LDC'S.

STEARNS

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** WOOD, EXPORTERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 06 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978ABIDJA06368  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780278-0304  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** ABIDJAN  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780793/aaaadabu.tel  
**Line Count:** 116  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** e9f6fb7a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EB  
**Original Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 29 mar 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2110639  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRODUCERS AND EXPORTERS OF TROPICAL WOOD MEET IN ABIDJAN  
**TAGS:** EAGR, ETRD, IV  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/e9f6fb7a-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014